

Dear Members of the Appropriations Committee;

Art plays a FUNDAMENTAL part in OUR lives. Looking carefully around, we find work of artists and musicians in architecture, in sounds that surround our daily existence, truly in almost every detail of our live experience.

While we all understand necessity of balancing the resources, indeed, art, music, poetry defines the society more than numbers. We create, and therefore we ARE. Cutting budgets for the art, particularly cutting the operational funding for art and musical organizations moves us ALL back in time to the survivalist society which - we all hope to agree - we are not.

Furthermore, disproportionally cutting art funding lines in the budget is also offensive to the artists and musicians, who, while already working for poverty wages in our state, create the value beyond any numbers: Orchestras, theaters, museums etc. are not only attractions for the tourists, but also places where artists work, and develop. **THESE ARE IMPORTANT CULTURAL AND HERITAGE INSTITUTIONS.**

Arts brings GREAT return on the financial investment with improvements in education, tourism, quality of life, community building, lowering the crime rates, etc.; the list is long and well documented. PLEASE DO NOT NEGLECT this very important aspect of things.

If you cut the funding, you will wonder very soon where the “Still Revolutionary” creative, flourishing society of the State of Connecticut had gone. Please do not make the most creative and thus delicate part of our State a victim of the political fight.

Thank you for your attention.

Sincerely